GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3233
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2006
DEMANDS OF GRAMEEN BANKS
Shivanna Shri M

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the representatives of Grameen Banks from all over India had come to Delhi to impress upon the Union Government about: their long pending demands including pensionary benefits ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a): Notices dated 22.2.06 and 17.3.06 were received from the United Forum of RRB Employees Unions for an agitational programme from 5.4.2006 and 16.5.2006 including central dharna before Parliament on 5.4.2006 and march to Parliament on 16.5.2006. A notice dated 14.3.2006 was also received from the All India RRB Employees Association for an agitational programme from 31.3.2006 including national strike on the 19 May, 2006.

(b) The demands are mainly related to parity of `other allowances` and superannuation benefits, merger/amalgamation of RRBs with sponsor banks, filling up vacant posts and creation of Negotiating Forum at the Apex level, withdrawal of all deputed officers except Chairman of RRBs from RRBs.

A National Industrial Tribunal (NIT) was constituted with Justice S. Obul Reddy, retired Chief Justice of High Court of Andhra Pradesh as its Chairman to decide the questions relating to pay, salary, other allowances and other benefits payable to the employees of the RRBs. The recommendations of the NIT submitted on 30.4.1990 were considered by an Equation Committee and as recommended by the Committee, these were accepted by the Government of India. Accordingly the employees of RRBs have been granted parity in pay and allowances with the corresponding categories of employees of sponsor banks and the pensionary benefits as admissible under Employees Provident Fund and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952. The `other allowances` are required to be decided by the sponsor banks in consultation with RRBs. The other demands relating to merger/amalgamation of RRBs with the sponsor bank have not been found possible to agree as there is no such provision in RRB Act, 1976. The Officers and Chairmen of RRBs are deputed from the sponsor banks as per the provisions of RRB Act, 1976. The RRBs have been permitted to fill up the remaining vacant posts keeping in view the business potential of the RRBs and suitability of the staff available for redeployment. The formation of a negotiating forum at the Apex level has not been considered as the area of operation of each RRB is confined to a few districts only in the State and the RRBs are sponsored by as many as 27 Banks and promoted by Central and State Governments.